

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 7, 12, 17-18 and 23 were deemed to contain allowable subject matter while the remaining claims were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for the reasons of record.

In response, and in order to place the instant application in condition for allowance, claims 1,3, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 26 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 18 have been amended as detailed below.

In view of the foregoing amendments it is respectfully submitted that all of currently-pending claims contain allowable subject matter.

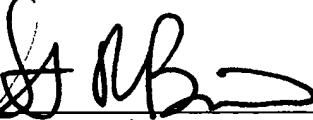
More specifically, all of the remaining independent claims contain subject matter expressly indicated to be allowable in the outstanding Action. Additionally, all of the remaining dependent claims have been amended to correct dependency and to provide proper antecedent basis as appropriate and it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending dependent claims now depend either directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending claims, after entry of this amendment, contain subject matter indicated to be allowable in the outstanding action, or depend from and further limit such claims and are therefore



likewise allowable. The instant application is therefore respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance at the present time and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

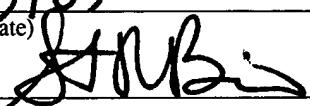
Respectfully submitted,

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